

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4194

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR' UR, US, PARM

SUBJ: BREZHNEV INTERVIEW IN LE MONDE

REF: PARIS 17591 (NOTAL)

1. IN LONG INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY LE MONDE JUNE 16, WHICH IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO SET THE TONE FOR HIS PARIS VISIT, BREZHNEV MAKES FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS.

2. FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS:

TIME SINCE LAST RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT REPRESENTS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE ROAD COVERED BY FRANCE AND THE USSR SINCE DE GAULLE'S MEETING WITH SOVIET LEADERS IN 1966, WHICH MARKED TURNING POINT TOWARD COOPERATION IN DIVERSE FIELDS. RESULTS ARE "SATISFACTORY" IN BILATERAL FIELD, AS WELL AS IN COORDINATION (CONCERTATION) IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. BREZHNEV NOTES "WITH SATISFACTION" THAT "POSITIVE" PROCESS ALSO CONTINUED AFTER THE LAST RAMBOUILLET ENCOUNTER.

BREZHNEV THEN

-- SINGLES OUT LAST YEAR'S NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE AS SERIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND ASKS THAT IT BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS, TO LIMIT RISKS OF NUCLEAR CONFLICT AND BRAKE THE ARMS RACE;

-- CALLS DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCO-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE DOUBLED, POSITIVE, BUT SUGGESTS THAT TWO COUNTRIES COULD DO EVEN MORE IN FOREIGN COMMERCE;

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-- AND PRAISES CONTRIBUTIONS OF BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

THERE IS, THEREFORE, HE CONCLUDES THIS POINT, A GOOD BASIS FOR DURABLE AND STABLE (FRANCO-SOVIET) RELATIONS. WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW IS NOT TO LOSE THIS MOMENTUM BUT TO INTENSIFY IT. THAT IS WHAT THE SOVIET SIDE SINCERELY WANTS.

BREZHNEV WAS ASKED AT LATER POINT WHETHER VICTORY OF THE FRENCH LEFT WOULD AFFECT FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS. THIS, HE SAID, WAS STRICTLY INTERNAL FRENCH AFFAIR. BUT HE REITERATED OPTIMISM REGARDING FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS "WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE TWO COUNTRIES' FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS."

3. DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT:

IN LONG PASSAGE ON DETENTE, WHICH HE DESCRIBES AS A

REALITY INCREASINGLY AFFECTING THE DIRECTION AND NATURE
OF WORLD EVENTS, BREZHNEV THEN SINGLES OUT MOST RECENT
NAT RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE MILITARY EXPENDITURES
AND THE GROWTH OF THE U.S. MILITARY BUDGET AS
PREPARING THE TERRAIN FOR A NEW JUMP IN THE ARMS RACE.
"IF WE DO NOT PUT AN END TO THIS DIABOLIC RACE WE WILL
AGAIN FIND OURSELVES AT THE LIMITS OF THE UNPREDICTABLE,
AS IN THE YEARS OF THE COLD WAR."

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IN CONSEQUENT EMOTIONAL PASSAGE ON IMPORTANCE OF DISARMAMENT, IN WHICH HE REFERS TO MANY INITIATIVES USSR IS MAKING UNDER THIS HEADING, BREZHNEV THEN NOTES THAT USSR IS "READY TO SUPPORT ALL PROPOSITIONS LEADING TO EFFECTIVE CESSATION OF THE ARMS RACE." HOWEVER, IT "REFUSES CATEGORICALLY" PROPOSITIONS WHICH "ONLY CONTAIN WORDS ON ARMS REDUCTION AND IN FACT CONSTITUTE NOTHING BUT EFFORTS TO UPSET THE BALANCE OF FORCES, TO OBTAIN UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGE AND SO TO ENDANGER THE SECURITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES." SOVIETS ARE REALISTIC ABOUT DIFFICULTIES OF RESOLVING THESE PROBLEMS. TANGIBLE CONDITIONS EXIST TO GIVE DETENTE A STABLE, IRREVERSIBLE CHARACTER, AND TO CONCENTRATE EFFORTS TOWARD A RADICAL TURNING POINT IN DISARMAMENT. MUCH DEPENDS ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THIS FIELD.

4. AFRICA:

USSR SUPPORTS STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE AND OPPOSES RACISM AND APARTHEID. AFRICAN INSTABILITY IS DUE TO DIVISIVE EXTERNAL FORCES WHICH SEEK TO PREVENT AFRICANS TO CHOOSE THE ROAD SUITABLE FOR THEM. THIS COULD PRODUCE NEW INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS. USSR IS OPPOSED TO ALL SUCH INTERFERENCE, SEEKS NO ADVANTAGE OR PRIVILEGE IN AFRICA, BUT ONLY PEACEFUL RELATIONS.

5. NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER:

ASKED WHETHER USSR WOULD PARTICIPATE IN SEARCH FOR NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, BREZHNEV SAID THAT ONLY CAPITALIST STATES SUFFER FROM ECONOMIC CRISIS, WHICH SOCIALIST STATES FEEL ONLY INDIRECTLY THROUGH INFLATION. THE USSR BASES ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH STATES IN AFRICA, ASIA, ETC., ON STRICT EQUALITY,
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RIGHTS, AND MUTUAL ADVANTAGE AND GIVES ALL POSSIBLE AID

TO NUMEROUS "LIBERATED" STATES TO HELP THEM SURMOUNT THE PAST. BREZHNEV THEN WISHED TO UNDERLINE THAT USSR "NATURALLY" IS NEITHER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF COLONIALISM, NOR FOR THE CONTINUING UNFAVORABLE INFLUENCES AFFECTING THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

6. CSCE:

ASKED IF HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT, BREZHNEV SAID THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE FINAL ACT HAS AN IMPORTANT POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVELY INFLUENCING STATE RELATIONS AND THE SITUATION IN AND BEYOND EUROPE. IT HAS BECOME A TANGIBLE POLITICAL REALITY.

MUCH HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, ALTHOUGH PROGRESS IS NOT THE SAME IN DIFFERENT AREAS. FINAL ACT CONSTITUTES A "VAST ACTION PROGRAM" FOR CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN EUROPE, CONCEIVED FOR A LONG PERIOD. "I PARTICULARLY WANT TO STRESS THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL BE CARRIED ALL THE BETTER IF EFFORTS TO POISON STATE RELATIONS ARE LESS NUMEROUS."

7. IDEOLOGICAL DETENTE:

IMPORTANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD DURABLE

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PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE. THE IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE WILL CONTINUE. THIS IS NO CONTRADICTION AS LONG AS DIFFERENT SOCIAL ORDERS AND IDEAS COEXIST. BUT IT IS "INCONCEIVABLE IN OUR PERIOD TO TRY TO ATTAIN VICTORY FOR SUCH IDEAS, FOR IDEOLOGY, BY FORCE." THE IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE MUST NOT DEGENERATE INTO PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR, INVOLVE INTERFERENCE IN COUNTRIES' AFFAIRS, OR LEAD TO POLITICAL OR MILITARY CONFRONTATION. OTHERWISE SUCH AN IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE COULD TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO A CATASTROPHE, IN WHICH MILLIONS WOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY "LOSE THEIR CONCEPTIONS" (SIC). NATURALLY WE COMMUNISTS REMAIN CONVINCED OF OUR BELIEFS.

8. EEC-CEMA RELATIONS:

"WE CONSIDER THE COMMON MARKET A REALITY" AND CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT THE WEST HAVE A SIMILAR ATTITUDE TOWARD CEMA. IT IS NOW UP TO EEC TO ANSWER.

9. MIDDLE EAST:

ISSUE OF A PACIFIC SETTLEMENT IS INCREASINGLY URGENT. IT IS A POSITIVE FACT THAT U.S. AND USSR ARE

TRYING TO RESUME GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE FALL OF 1977.
WE ATTACH A GREAT IMPORTANCE TO COOPERATION WITH FRANCE
IN THIS AREA, WHICH CAN EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN A
MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND PARTICIPATE IN GUARANTEEING
IT.

10. USSR'S PROSPECTS:

BREZHNEV IS OPTIMISTIC AND REJOICES (IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTION) AT POPULATION GROWTH IN VARIOUS REGIONS.

11. COMMENT: WE WILL MAKE FEW GENERAL COMMENTS IN
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SEPTEL BUT DEFER TO MOSCOW FOR EVALUATION.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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